

get this done and get it done before the end of this month.

The collaborative work on that measure and the FDA bill renews my hope that Congress will reach an agreement to prevent student loan interest rates from doubling for 7 million young men and women. We will move to two proposals to freeze student interest rates at their current levels. The Republican proposal is paid for by stripping Americans of lifesaving preventive health care. I can't say it any more clearly than that. It would be a shame to use that pay-for. That program has already been stripped bare. To take any more from it would really hurt the health of America. Our proposal is paid for by closing a loophole that allowed wealthy Americans to dodge their taxes. I am certainly aware of how things work around here. Neither one of these is going to pass, I am sorry to say. These two proposals were not created equal. But I hope a few reasonable Republicans will join with us. We should not put Americans' health at risk. We need to come to an agreement on the student loan issue. We only have until the end of June to do this.

I also hope to resolve an issue dealing with paycheck fairness over the next work period. In addition to that, we are going to deal with the farm bill, flood insurance, as I have talked about, a small business tax relief program, cybersecurity, and some appropriations bills.

In the last Congress we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, named after a stalwart woman from the South who was in effect cheated out of pay she deserved. She did the same work as men for many years but didn't get the same money. She sought redress in the courts, and they said: No, you can't do that; you should have done that when you first started working there. She didn't know she was being cheated at that time. We changed the law. Now people in the same situation as Lilly Ledbetter are not going to be bound by some phony set of rules that prevent someone from filing a lawsuit when they have been aggrieved.

While the wage gap has narrowed in the five decades since Congress declared women entitled to equal pay for equal work, gender discrimination remains a serious problem in the workplace. The work we did with Lilly Ledbetter was the single most important piece of legislation to ensure women have a chance to protect themselves. It is something we should have done before. We didn't. It is done now. Women make up about half of today's workforce. More than half the students in our law schools are women. More than half the students in medical schools are women. They still, though, will only earn 77 cents on every dollar compared to their male colleagues for doing the same work, and with an increasing number of women leading American households, this is a problem that affects children and families across the country.

The legislation, led by Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the Paycheck Fairness Act, is a logical extension of protections under the Equal Pay Act. It will help close the gap by empowering women to negotiate for equal pay and creating strong incentives for employers to obey the laws already in place.

Republicans deny waging war on women. Yet they have launched a series of attacks on women's access to health care and contraception this year. Now they have an opportunity to back up their excuses with action, and we are going to give them that opportunity. We hope they will join us and send a clear message that America values the incredible contributions women make every day.

Would the Chair be so kind as to announce the work we are going to do here today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SAFETY AND INNOVATION ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3187, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3187) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Durbin/Blumenthal amendment No. 2127, to require manufacturers of dietary supplements to register dietary supplement products with the Food and Drug Administration.

Sanders amendment No. 2109, to revoke the exclusivity of certain entities that are responsible for violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the False Claims Act, and other certain laws.

Coburn/Burr amendment No. 2131, to require an independent assessment of the Food and Drug Administration's review of drug applications.

Coburn/Burr amendment No. 2132, to provide that a portion of the performance awards of each employee of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, and the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research be connected to an evaluation of the employee's contribution to goals under the user fee agreements.

Burr/Coburn amendment No. 2130, to ensure transparency in Food and Drug Administration user fee agreement negotiations.

Murkowski amendment No. 2108, to prohibit approval by the Food and Drug Administration of genetically engineered fish unless the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concurs with such approval.

Paul amendment No. 2143, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act concerning claims about the effects of foods and dietary supplements on health-related conditions and disease, to prohibit employees of the Food and Drug Administration from carrying firearms and making arrests without

warrants, and to adjust the mens rea of certain prohibited acts under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to knowing and willful.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2107

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to call up amendment No. 2107 and make it pending.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] proposes an amendment numbered 2107.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To allow the importation by individuals of safe and affordable drugs from Canada)

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 11. SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRUGS FROM CANADA.

Chapter VIII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 810. IMPORTATION BY INDIVIDUALS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations permitting individuals to safely import into the United States a prescription drug (other than a controlled substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act) that—

"(1) is purchased from an approved Canadian pharmacy;

"(2) is dispensed by a pharmacist licensed to practice pharmacy and dispense prescription drugs in Canada;

"(3) is purchased for personal use by the individual, not for resale, in quantities that do not exceed a 90-day supply;

"(4) is filled using a valid prescription issued by a physician licensed to practice in the United States; and

"(5) has the same active ingredient or ingredients, route of administration, dosage form, and strength as a prescription drug approved by the Secretary under chapter V.

"(b) APPROVED CANADIAN PHARMACY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, an approved Canadian pharmacy is a pharmacy that—

"(A) is located in Canada; and

"(B) that the Secretary certifies—

"(i) is licensed to operate and dispense prescription drugs to individuals in Canada; and

"(ii) meets the criteria under subsection (c).

"(2) PUBLICATION OF APPROVED CANADIAN PHARMACIES.—The Secretary shall publish on